

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

## REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL L. MOLGANO ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FOURTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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## **Testimony**

In Support of Raised House Bill 5512 An Act Concerning the Reporting of a Missing Child

> Judiciary Committee March 23, 2012

Honorable Chairs, Senator Coleman and Representative Fox, Honorable Vice-Chairs, Senator Doyle and Representative Holder-Winfield, Ranking Members Senator Kissel and Representative Hetherington, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Raised House Bill No. 5512, AN ACT CONCERNING THE REPORTING OF A MISSING CHILD.

I fully and wholeheartedly support HB 5512. The death that befell two-year-old Caylee Marie Anthony in 2008 touched the hearts of a nation. It was sad enough to learn of her remains being found in a wooded area near her home in Orlando, Florida, but what holds to this very day as an unconscionable and shocking fact is Caylee's mother, Casey Anthony, reported she had not seen her daughter for 31 days. THIRTY-ONE DAYS! Such irresponsibility and neglect presents no surprise that 35 states or more have considered or are considering a version of Caylee's Law, and Connecticut must not be the exception. The blatant disregard for the protection and safety of children by not notifying the authorities of a missing child is criminal and should carry no less than a Class A misdemeanor. I personally would be agreeable to charging this crime as a felony.

HB 5512 clearly makes it Connecticut law that any parent, guardian, or person having custody or control, or providing supervision of any child under the age of twelve years report the disappearance of such child when the parent, guardian, or person having

custody or control, or providing supervision does not know the location of the child and has not had contact with the child for a twenty-four-hour period. I strongly urge the Judiciary Committee immediately JF this bill to the floor. The children of Connecticut must never be at risk of not being reported missing within a reasonable time period as was young and innocent Caylee Marie Anthony.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Michael L. Molgand

Sincerely,

Michael L. Molgano

State Representative, District 144

Stamford